

REFERENCES

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23 September 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Honorable Robert S. McNamara
The Secretary of Defense

A very substantial contribution to positive intelligence is achieved from the operations of the National Reconnaissance Organization. I have felt that for some time D/NRO should be more intimately acquainted with the intelligence requirements which are of primary concern to me and to the members of the United States Intelligence Board. It is my observation that there is a lack of essential, intimate working relationship between the D/NRO and USIB and also between NRO and CIA. I have attempted to correct this by asking Dr. McMillan to attend occasional USIB meetings where important decisions were taken in reconnaissance matters. However, he had not attended all meetings where these matters were discussed, and none were reports of COMOR, the USIB Committee on overhead reconnaissance, are reported. Furthermore, I have observed when one comes as a witness or observer at an intelligence Board meeting, he is not fully effective.

Therefore propose the following:

a. The D/NRO be made a regular member of USIB at all meetings concerning reconnaissance activities and operations including matters of concern to COMOR. It would not be necessary for the D/NRO to concern himself with other activities of USIB. The USIB agenda would be arranged in that reconnaissance matters would come first and when consideration of the items were concluded the D/NRO could excuse himself.

b. NRO appoint a member of COMOR, the USIB Committee on overhead reconnaissance.

I am confident that this arrangement will satisfactorily close a gap now existing and will make it possible for D/NRO to better under-

stand USIB's needs and requirements, and to guide the activities of NRO accordingly.

This arrangement has been discussed with the members of the United States Intelligence Board who agree that attendance by the D/NRO would be mutually beneficial.

If you agree with this suggestion, I would appreciate your so indicating by initialing and returning a copy of this communication.

/s/ John A. McCone

JOHN A. McCONE
Director

WElder:MMW (21 Sept 63)

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